

9 July 1968

Logistic Developments in the Panhandle of North Vietnam, 1-7 July 1968Activities South of the 19th ParallelArmed Reconnaissance SortiesThis Week (1-7 July) *

544 sorties per day

76 percent in Route Package I

11 percent in Route Package II

13 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)Last Week (24-30 June)

402 sorties per day

54 percent in Route Package I

26 percent in Route Package II

20 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)For the Period 1 January - 7 July 1968

224 sorties per day

60 percent in Route Package I

24 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III **

Weather ***

Generally poor weather extended over all of North Vietnam this past week.

* The rate of attack listed for the period 1-7 July may be as much as five percent below the actual rate because some reports from operating units in Southeast Asia are not available at the time of publication

** Beginning 1 April nearly all sorties have been flown south of the 19th Parallel.

*** Poor weather - Less than 5,000 feet ceiling, and/or five miles or less visibility.

USAF and DIA review(s) completed.

Highways

	<u>Preliminary Sighted</u>	<u>Pilot Reports Destroyed</u>	<u>on Trucks Damaged</u>
This Week (1-7 July)	451	74	47
Last Week (24-30 June)	661	134	88
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	678	101	80
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	484	69	63

Remarks:

The poor weather prevailing over the Panhandle this past week hindered observations of truck activity, and in large part accounted for the more than 30 percent drop in quantified truck sightings and the equally large declines in the number of vehicles reported destroyed and damaged, compared with the previous period. The numerous pilot reports of unquantified sightings of trucks and unidentified "movers" suggest, however, that the level of vehicle traffic continued heavy throughout the Panhandle area. The heaviest traffic observed this week was again sighted on the network of roads - Routes 82, 15, 151, and 137 - which form the major access routes leading into southern Laos.

Trucks sighted along the coastal road net near Quang Khe and Dong Hoi were more numerous this past week compared with recent weeks. The majority of the trucks were observed standing in truck parks and, as a result of strikes against these targets, pilots reported numerous secondary explosions and POL-type fires.

Roadwatch Teams

<u>Access Roads into Laos</u>	<u>Trucks Counted</u>		
	<u>Latest Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>	<u>Weekly Average 1968</u>
Route 15 (north of Mu Gia Pass) *	(30 Jun-6 Jul) 77S; 80N	(21-29 June) 150S; 170N	196S; 210N
Route 912	NA	NA	NA
Route 1036	NA	NA	NA

Remarks:

During the past week there were reports from only one roadwatch team on Route 15. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the team now re-

porting is located near a road junction, so the traffic it reports may not represent trucks moving exclusively to and from Laos. All the figures shown above for Route 15 are based on reports from the new location.

There were no reports from Route 912 nor Route 1036, which was reported to have been constructed a short distance across the border into Laos near the DMZ by at least 3 July.

Railroads

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Railroad Cars</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week	14	0	0
Last Week	15	4	4
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	15	1	2
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	32	3	6

Remarks:

There was little significant action against railroad targets during the past week as poor weather hindered operations. Pilots reported destroying two railroad bridges on the tramway on 6 July, but other action was directed primarily against rolling stock. There were no reports of equipment destroyed or damaged, however.

Waterways

	<u>Preliminary Pilots Reports on Watercraft Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (1-7 July)	195	21	24
Last Week (24-30 June)	312	26	53
Weekly Average (1968)	234	32	48

Remarks:

Watercraft sightings revealed no significant concentrations of watercraft or waterborne logistical activity. Photography [] revealed about 250 small vessels along the coast south of Quang Khe. This area is a key water transshipment area for the movement of supplies to the south and has been actively used during the course of the war. The number of watercraft observed, however, is not unusual compared to past sightings.

Logistic Activity Between the 19th and 20th Parallels

Continuing poor weather and a lack of photographic coverage between the 19th and 20th Parallels again precluded an overall assessment of logistic activity in this area.

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